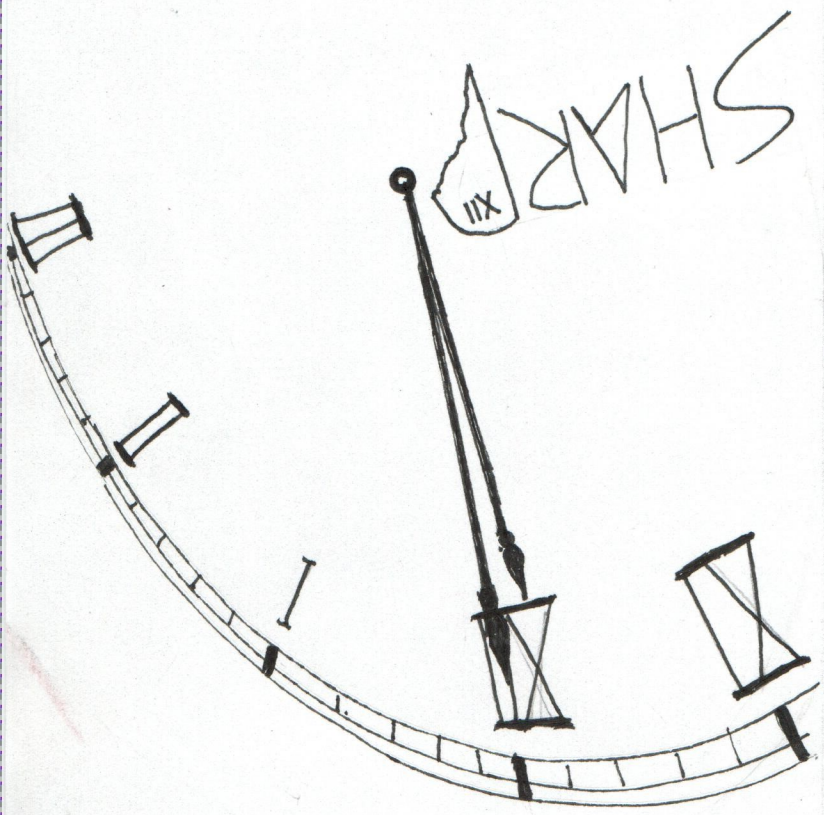

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

- Ray Bradbury

Thomas Vose CC-RY-NC 3/7/23
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INSULTS

idiot: Literally "private person" in Greek; someone who doesn't participate in the public good.
dolt: From Old English "dulled". Also where "dullard" comes from.
schmuck/putz: Yiddish words for "penis."

nerd: Coined by Dr. Seuss in "If I Ran the Zoo."

dork: Another penis reference.

oaf: From "elf" - a defective kid swapped out by the fairies. Tied to changeling stories.
clod: Clump of something - dirt or poop.

ass: From Latin "asinus" = donkey.

moron: Greek word for "foolish."

I especially like the first one, (bad typing aside) It effectively means that nonvoters are idiots, in the literal sense of the word.

The Upas tree, which grows in tropical areas, is actually poisonous - it has long been used to poison arrows and blowgun darts by dipping them in its sap.

It got even more of a deadly reputation when people sent to collect the sap died unexpectedly - it was said that the tree poisoned the air around it for miles around. This belief stuck.

Turned out an extinct volcano killed them, not the tree, but why let that ruin a good legend?

YOU SHOULD PLAY

I've been playing the Harvest Moon/Story of Seasons games since Harvest Moon 64 - there's a zen to them that's incredibly fulfilling - go through your chores, make friends, and explore a postnatal idyll (which I always name Avalon, being a giant nerd). And then this came along in Zelda and are that series' lunch so thoroughly that it has never really stacked up since.

Maybe it's the beautiful sprite-based graphics, the expert sound design, the endless trickle of things to discover, the wonderfully fleshed-out characters or the endless moddability (be sure to get Stardew Valley Expanded) but it's easily one of the best games of the last decade, as far as I'm concerned, and a testament to what one dedicated person can make.

Music Stuck in My Head:
A Recent Playlist

- "The Magic Number" / De La Soul
- "John the Revelator" / Son House
- "When I'm Sixty-Four" / The Beatles
- "Black" / Pearl Jam
- "So Far Away" / Dire Straits
- "Snow" / Red Hot Chili Peppers
- "Yellow Leadbetter" / Pearl Jam
- "We Don't Talk About Bruno" / "Encanto"
- "The Seeker" / The Who
- "Fine Tree Will" / Oscar Isaac, Marcus Mumford
- "Southern Cross" / Crosby, Stills and Nash
- "16 Shells from a 30-06" / Tom Waits
- "Sixteen Tons" / Tennessee Ernie Ford

Regular chess not doing it for you? Try:

Courier Chess! It's a variant that has been around since the medieval period.

Featuring such new pieces as:

- The Elephant - jumps two squares diagonally
- The Courier - their word for the bishop
- The Man/The Sage - moves like a king, but capturing him doesn't end the game
- The Fool - moves one square orthogonally
- The Queen - only moves one square now, and only diagonally
- The rest are all the same as you're used to, other than pawns, which don't have a 2-square first move anymore.

And there are tons of other variants to explore!

Stupid Summaries

(Apologies to John Atkinson)

The Scarlet Letter: People are jerks to a hot single mom.

The Turn of the Screw: Ghosts? Ghosts.

The Trial: Wait, what? Oh shi...

The Remains of the Day: Oops, I wasted my life.

The Catcher in the Rye: Unlikeable teenager angsts about being an unlikeable teenager.

The Three Musketeers: Four self-destructive badasses screw with their boss' rival because they can.

Tristram Shandy: Writing is hard. Gotcha.

Ulysses: An eventful and confusing day in Dublin.

Winnie-the Pooh: Boy plays with stuffed animals despite significant flooding.

The Arabian Nights: Rich nutjob tries to kill girl for three years. They marry.

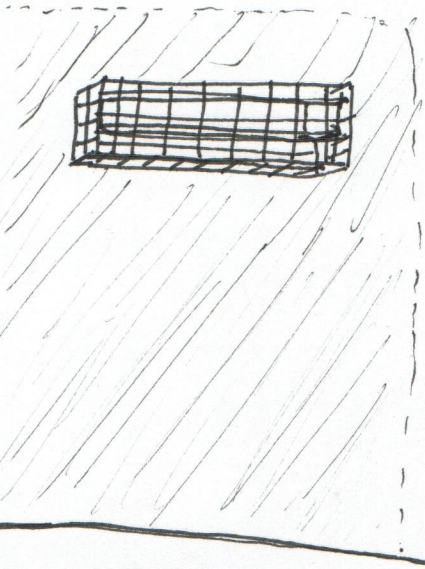
Decameron: Ten singles tell spicy stories hiding from a pandemic.

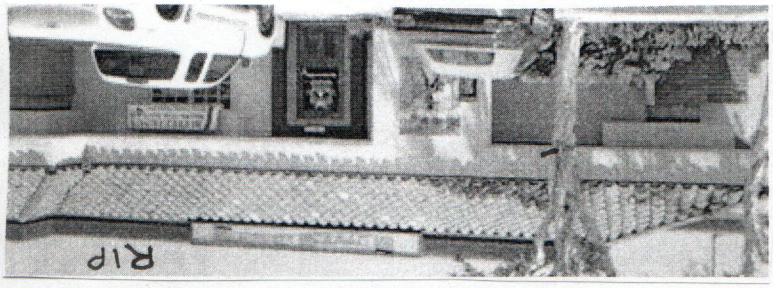
Reynard the Fox: Foxes are assholes.

Finnegan's Wake: Who the fuck knows.

Grave robbers broke into Lincoln's tomb in 1876 intending to steal and ransom the body - they were quickly arrested (one of them was a secret service agent undercover).

He's a lot harder to get to now - his son had his remains put in a steel cage and buried under 10' of concrete. (As far as anyone knows, he's still there.)





My years in the pizza world saw lots of messing around with recipes. The best one I had, though, was a discovery that a friend made - thanks, Gi

Crab Pizza

Standard dough, pizza sauce, cheese.
Lump crab (or imitation)
Lemon juice drizzle
Red onions
Cilantro
Black pepper

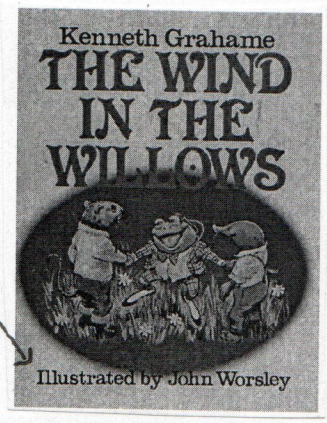
Cold Slaw would probably be a good addition as well)

Taking pictures of Boggle spreads gives you something to do wherever you go - if, like me, you use a notebook.

T	An	S	N	A
E	S	I	M	E
S	U	O	B	T
U	R	I	A	H
Y	O	T	A	O

This is "Big Boggle," so 4 letters minimum!

You Should Read:

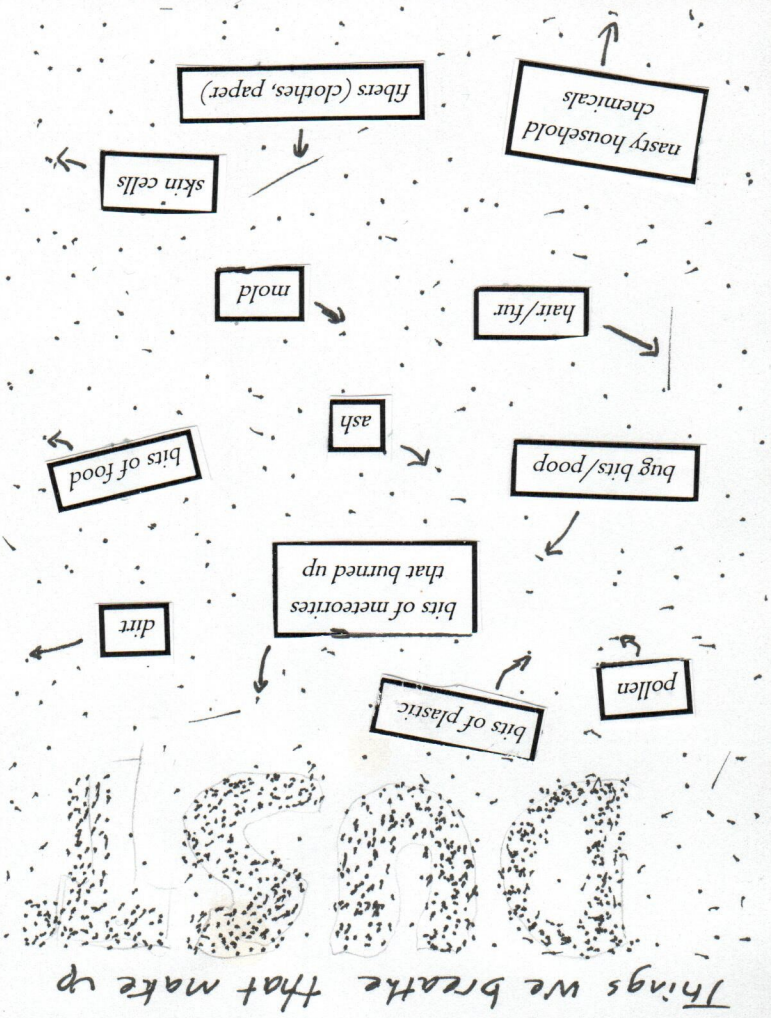


This is the version that I grew up with, which had wonderfully evocative watercolor art by this guy, which went a long way towards my appreciation of it. The characters are old friends - Ratty, the hardheaded, brave and poetic wanderer, diligent and loveable Mole, reclusive badass Badger with his awesome house, and utterly incorrigible Toad - and the River Bank and Wild Wood combine pastoral charm with a frisson of menace.

There are sequels written by other authors, but I'm not sure I want to try them and risk sullying this story.

And don't bother with the Disney adaptation (though the Disneyland ride is still a trip).

Things we breathe that make up dust



Hat tip - I hate cars. They're black holes for money, inefficient and environmentally destructive, and I resent how so much of our society is designed around them.

That doesn't extend to these guys, though. I was genuinely sad when they went off the air in 2012 due to Tom Magliozzi's Alzheimer's. They were funny, intelligent, likeable and genuinely kind and helpful to the people that called in with their issues, and listening to them - often along with my father, who introduced me to the show - was always a highlight of the week.

You can still hear re the episodes in podcast form, though!

Our system of time is a tive mishmash of legacy systems...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(Sun's day)	(Moon's day)	(Tiw's day - Noise war god)	(Woden = Odin's day)	(Thor's day - yes, that one)	(Frigg's day - Noise goddess)	(Saturn's day - Roman titan)

JANUARY: Janus' month (God of doors)

FEBRUARY: Februus' month (God of purification)

MARCH: Mars' month (God of war)

APRIL: Month of "opening" (Aperio) (Nero tried to name it after himself)

MAY: Maia's month (Hermes' mom)

JUNE: Juno's month (Queen of the gods) (Doesn't like Maia.)

JULY: Julius (Caesar)'s month (Formerly called Quintilis)

AUGUST: Augustus (Caesar)'s month (Formerly called Sextilis)

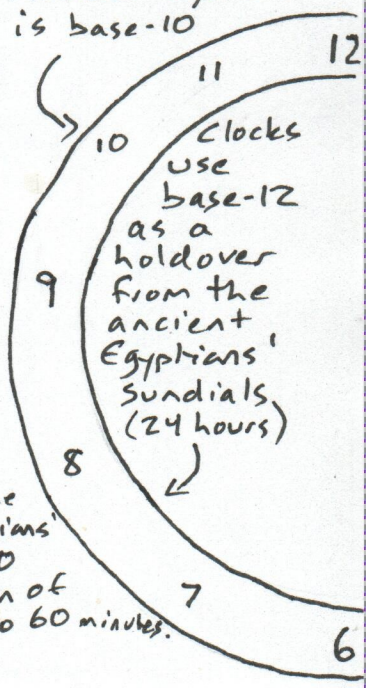
SEPTEMBER: "Seventh" month (although it isn't, after these were added)

OCTOBER: "Eighth" month (Oops)

NOVEMBER: "Ninth" month (Double oops)

DECEMBER: "Tenth" month (Triple oops)

And while our number system is base-10



Clocks use base-12 as a holdover from the ancient Egyptians' sundials (24 hours)

and the Babylonians' base-60 division of those into 60 minutes.